

**RCP/Innovation Agency workshop - How to embed research in NHS Trusts to improve patient care
28 November 2019**

Credibility

Attendees agreed that to be involved in research, a clinician needs to feel credible and be perceived as credible. There was also consensus that trainees are often made to feel they must make a false choice between being a clinician or an academic.

More needs to be done to inform clinicians they are capable of contributing to research and should be encouraged to get involved, even if they have not followed an academic pathway.

Delegates agreed that the level of credibility required varies according to the role one has in research, although patients see all healthcare professionals as credible and don't differentiate. More credibility is required for designing a study than delivering a study. These differences should be made clearer to encourage clinicians into research.

Specific suggestions attendees identified included:

To raise credibility of clinicians:

- Research activity should be covered in job appraisals
- Research skills should be part of training
- Research components in clinical training are not always credited but should be
- Need for more accreditation of research components of training
- Recognition is needed – don't have to be a world leading PI to be recognised and rewarded.

To support clinicians wanting to get into research:

- We need to break down barriers between academics/clinicians/patients
- Mentoring/coaching schemes
- Link them with academics
- Promote/establish RCP research networks and trainee research networks
- Research "speed dating" – clinicians and academics
- Research fellow consultations
- Promote research design services.

For a research study to be credible:

- Results are less credible if not all parties are involved in the study; clinicians and patients need to be involved in the design process
- There should be a rule to involve clinical staff as academics don't always understand how a study is delivered on the ground
- Universities and NIHR should seek to engage more clinical staff in research
- Research needs to address equality & diversity issues. Trials tend to focus on English speaking, those without multi-morbidities etc. Some patient groups are not engaged but need to be
- Should meet research priorities identified by James Lind Alliance.